

ITEM:

SUBJECT: South Shafter Community, Kern County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Resolution Approving and Accepting the Kern County Health Officer's Declaration of Potential Water Pollution and a Time Schedule*

BACKGROUND: The Small Communities Grant Program provides funding for the construction of publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities. For the subject project to be placed in the Priority Class B for funding, the Regional Board must approve and accept a County Health Officer's declaration of an existing or potential pollution problem and the time schedule for mitigation.

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water in the South Shafter Community, which consists of over 345 properties in Kern County. Wastewater in the community is treated entirely with individual septic tank and leachfield systems, over half of which no longer keep wastewater in the subsurface. A 1997 water system survey found that four of the fifteen domestic wells supplying water to the community had nitrate concentrations in violation of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 45 mg/L. Nitrate concentrations above the MCL indicate an existing pollution problem, and it has a potential to increase in extent and magnitude. Eight of the eleven other wells had nitrate levels above 23 mg/L. The Kern County Health Officer has declared a potential pollution and health problem.

Kern County has requested placement on the Small Community Grant Project priority list for planning, design, and construction of a community sewage collection, treatment and disposal facility. The Kern County Engineering and Survey Services Director established the following time schedule:

Complete Planning Phase	September 2005
Complete Design Phase	August 2006
Award Construction Contract	March 2007
Complete Construction	December 2007
Complete Connections to New System	October 2008

The proposed Resolution approves and accepts the Kern County Health Officer's declaration and time schedule, which is sufficient for Priority Class B.

ISSUES: None.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

**23/24 June 2005**

Central Valley Regional  
Water Quality Control Board  
1685 E Street  
Fresno, CA 93706